

EPCAMR 2022 4th Quarter Board Meeting

Minutes – November 17th

EPCAMR Office / EC Conference Room

11:00AM	Discussion and Correspondence	
Info. Portion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Guidance available OSMRE website• STREAM Act (S. 3957) stalled in Senate Energy & Natural Resource Committee. Sen. Barrasso (chair) is proposing his own bill to include Mine Fires and Subsidence as acceptable uses in addition to AMD Treatment in the IIJA set aside.• Climate Benefits of Degraded Lands Reclamation and Restoration Report released by National Wildlife Federation at Press Event with EC at Bliss Reclamation Site• Thank Yous from watershed tours and events	Robert
12:00PM	Call to Order Business Meeting: Attendance: Dr. Joe Simons III, Christine Haldeman, Cristy Sweeney, Ed Wytovich, Cheryl Brobst, John Levitsky, Tim Ference (quorum), Beck Chickillo, Quinn Hartung, Aaron Eldrich, Gabby Zawacki, Angela Meck, Mike Korb, Dr. Ken Klemow, Gary Leander, Marty Zyknr, Mike Sauers, Bobby Hughes, Michael Hewitt, Denise Hernandez, Laura Rinehimer, and Steve Cornia	President
Begin Business Portion of Meeting	Minutes from Last Mgt. (August 18th): File for Audit w/ Cristy's edits (Ed, John & All)	Secretary
	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Balance Sheet, Open Sales Orders, Jobs List and Grant Prospects• File for Audit: Checking & PA Invest Account Balances (Cristy, Cheryl & All)• Draft 2023 EPCAMR Operating Budget Review and Approval (Cristy, Mike & All)	Treasurer
	AMR Program Reports (3 minutes each; PowerPoint ; Mgmt. Reports on website) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve mentioned Solar on AML project model development in Bituminous Region and working on hosting meetings for DEP Energy Office next year.• Laura mentioned February release of Brookie the Trout Videos at Dimenti's in Hazleton. Will also serve as a fundraiser and demonstration of the learning kits.• NFWF study importance was underlined by board members (See Wshd Reports).	Staff
	Committee Reports (a Zoom Pro link can be setup for committee meetings) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personnel Committee- meeting was scheduled for December 7th.• Education and Science Committee- meeting was scheduled for December 21st• Strategic Planning Committee- meeting needs to be scheduled; Leigh Ann is chair	Respective Comm. Chairs
	Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued work and update on Tetra Tech Rare Earth Elements Proposal; looking to add 5-10 discharges (sludge) samples in the Anthracite Region.	President
Hotlinks in this document will take you to more info.	New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moved to</u> approve committee decision(s) (Cristy, John & All)• <u>Motion to</u> approve AML Grant proposal development with Tetra Tech on a Preliminary Plan for Treatment of Jeddo Mine Tunnel AMD requested by Friends of the Nescopeck; It's on a list of BAMR's 20 discharges/locations to consultants for design of treatment systems. Also Audenreid, Shamokin Watershed, Good Spring Watershed (AMD pipeline to Rausch Creek Treatment Plant)... Board decided to put this on hold till we know more. TABLED.• <u>Motion to</u> approve AML Grant proposal development on a future economic development reclamation project with a private anthracite coal company; need to grout/seal/flush to place a warehouse on an AML site. EPCAMR staff could lend expertise on locating voids close to the surface from mine maps. TABLED.• <u>Moved to</u> approve the transfer of \$850 from a mix of partners to FON originally for the Jeddo/Nescopeck Partnership VISTA to FON general funds (Ed, Mike & All)• <u>Motion to</u> adjourn business portion of the meeting (Tim, Mike & All)	President

Grants, Conferences, Events, Workshops

- Anticipate preparing 2023-2025 MSI Grant after the New Year
- 3 regional Focus Group meetings and a Solar Summit on AML in June 2023 in partnership with the PA DEP Energy Office; Dates to TBD
- ARIPPA Reclamation Award Application: \$2,500 available now, \$4,300 available in 2023.
- Joint Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) and Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting: Virtual on Nov. 15th, 2022
- PA DEP BAMR AML Grant due on December 9th, 2022; [Program link](#)
- We Are All A Part-How A Beautiful Trout Stream is Impacted by Pollution-Joseph Simons, III, in partnership with the Luzerne Conservation District
- More in the email sent by Executive Director...

Watershed Reports

Regional: Dr. Ken Klemow presented his Avondale reforestation research at Ecological Society (ESA) meeting in Montreal in mid-August. Lots of interest and was invited to publish in Restoration Ecology publication. This is the most northerly of the ARRI sites. Mortality is only 5-20% not much deer predation either (no tree tubes or protection). Retiring in April and moving to California. Present at AMR Conference in Fall 2022? Yes, will supply the poster, but may not be able to attend in person.

Regional: NFWF study discussion continued: John L mentioned outcomes could recommend bringing streams to the surface to maintain macro populations which feed these species of concern (i.e. work being done by EC and Mike's presentation to Kings College). Mike K added good examples: Lucky Run (done by BAMR to keep water out of the Lackawanna Mine Tour); Mill Creek (concrete channel lining in Avoca(?) maintained by PENNDOT). Also BAMR sealed a hole between Rte 315 and I 81, raised the stream bank and diverted away from hole. Christine mentioned West Branch Schuylkill projects (landfill liner with natural stream on top, the key is to get it tied in at the top and bottom so it doesn't pull up. One project hit by flood was still under warranty so it was repaired by the contractor.) Shared a report "Hydrological and geophysical investigation of stream flow losses and restoration strategies in and abandoned mine lands setting" by Charles Cravotta and Dr. Laura Sherrod. Et al. Worked with Kutztown University to use their geophysical device to see where the voids were. Bridges downstream might need to be resized.

Schuylkill: Christine mentioned that Schuylkill Headwaters is working on their first BIL grant Application for Kaska Project for silt removal and AMD treatment.

Sullivan: Continuing Loyalsock Creek AMD monitoring supported by SCD and LCWA. Approval for pollution sources in the headwaters as well.

Nescopeck: Mike K. and Gary spearheaded a meeting with the Luzerne County Manager, but then he quit. Held their first rain barrel workshop in late summer and sold 10.

Regional: New Wild Trout Man coming out related to PA Grand Canyon and Kettle Creek. Recalls camping and fishing with father after baseball season. Visited a favorite brook trout stream 1.5 mile hike down near Snow Shoe area.

ARIPPA: PA HB668 pass the house, now senate and signed by governor signed into law as act 105 to allow ARIPPA to have representation on MRAB. EPA proposed Greenhouse Gas non-rulemaking document on Air Emissions. ARIPPA plants do have emissions (CO2 in particular). ARIPPA will be submitting comments and highlight from their air emissions report recently completed. Inviting EPCAMR to submit comments as well. Republican controlled House and Democratic controlled Senate in the new US Congress. State Democrats are poised to narrowly control the PA House waiting on special elections in Bucks and Montgomery counties and a vacancy due to death of Tony Deluca and 2 additional vacancies one caused by Austin Davis' move Lieutenant Governor. This means 51 new members to the state house. Regardless, lots of new representatives at both the federal and state level need to be educated on AML issues. EPCAMR signed on to a letter welcoming the new house members. EC and EPCAMR are helping with an upcoming tour for the PA House Democratic Policy Committee.

Columbia: Conservation District hosted a watershed festival in July at a park in Catawissa. 2023 will be in Briar Creek Park in Berwick. Working with Girard Estate regarding reforestation near Ashland thru the 10 Million Trees Partnership and applied for funding thru the state to maintain for 3 years (required by Girard Estates). ALLARM sampling near the mouth of Catawissa Creek. Finding 5-6 pH waters at Hollingshead Bridge.

Catawissa: Looking at access to Audenreid thru Blue Knob Rod and Gun Club. Ed has been to their meetings but they turned down access because they are not too keen on potential illegal ATV riders and would interrupt their hunting. DCNR purchased the headwaters area and entrance is the former Paragon entrance in Humboldt Industrial Park.

Regional: Mike K sits on the board for a privately funded nonprofit of Industrial Archives in Bethlehem. They own 2 buildings and records for railroads, steel mills, banks, and anthracite operations. Looking for volunteers to clean up maps and cataloging private collections. They have 3 paid staff and 2 interns.

Luzerne: Update on the Plainsville Site. Landowner is interested in selling and John L was involved in getting Plains Township involved. Landowner was interested in selling at the price listed on the tax map. CAP is consuming a lot of time and AMD is set on the side. Looking to have a good monitoring program. EPCAMR can setup and doesn't have to do it (depending on time) someone else can sample.